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Minister of Health

Leg islative Building

Regina, Saskatchewan S4S 083

SASKATCHEWAN

Honourable Patty Hajdu Minister of Health Health Canada

patty .hajdu@parl.gc.ca

Dear Honourable Patty Hajdu:

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss COVID-19 during our meeting on September 24, 2021. I am writing to follow up regarding the requests I made and offers you presented during the meeting.

Our government is appreciative of the federal government's role to date in procuring and delivering rapid tests, and we are asking for expedited approval for rapid tests currently deemed off-label.

Currently, rapid tests that are deemed off-label cannot be provided by pharmacies to the general public. As we move to significantly ramp up our provincial testing capacity, Health Canada approval on these options would help our efforts on ensuring tests are readily accessible to the general public.

Additionally, we are requesting expedited distribution of monoclonal antibody therapies (sotrovimab and the Regeneron product) for individuals that have been diagnosed with COVID-19. We know that these therapies have played a very important role in other jurisdictions to reduce pressure on acute care facilities and improve recovery for those individuals who have been diagnosed with COVID-19. Any work you can do to accelerate that process would be appreciated .

I want to thank you for extending the offer that you have made in terms of federal assistance if the province of Saskatchewan requires it. At this time, we have expanded the capacity in our acute and intensive care units in order to address pressures we are experiencing, and we will continue to use the federal resources that have always been in place to complement those efforts. I also appreciate your willingness to share ideas the federal government has regarding increasing vaccine uptake in Indigenous communities, specifically through the use of Rangers and Indigenous community members to provide mobile clinics in remote First Nations communities, as well as providing funding to directly to promote vaccines. My Deputy Minister will be following up with your officials to further this discussion.

Thank you for the meeting that we had and I look forward to further discussions on how we can best fight COVID-19.

Sincerely,



**Paul** Merriman Minister of Health